

## **David J. Barrans**

David J. Barrans currently serves as Chief Counsel for Benefits Law in the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), a position he has held since 2014. In that role, he supervises attorneys and legal staff in VA's Benefits Law Group responsible for legal matters pertaining to benefit programs administered by the Veterans Benefits Administration and the National Cemetery Administration, which include disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation, disability and death pension, insurance, education benefits, vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits, fiduciary matters, burial benefits, and cemetery matters. Mr. Barrans also oversees VA's programs for accrediting representatives to assist claimants in preparing, presenting, and prosecuting claims for VA benefits and for reviewing the reasonableness of fees charged for such representation.

Mr. Barrans joined VA as a staff attorney in 1993, and served as a Deputy Assistant General Counsel from 2004 to 2014. He previously served from 1991 to 1993 as a judicial law clerk for Judge Jonathan R. Steinberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (then known as the Court of Veterans Appeals).

Mr. Barrans is a graduate of the University of Southern California and Cornell Law School.